

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Warmuth II. Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended herein to overcome the rejection. Newly submitted claims 19 and 20 are submitted for examination above.

The Warmuth spring is an air spring inside an air spring, with both the inner and outer springs attached to and functionally pushing on the opposing end components. The Warmouth patent specifically states: “an air spring comprising a retainer, base housing, an elastomeric sleeve (18) secured to the retainer at a first end and secured to the base housing at a lower end...” The inner sleeve in the Warmuth patent likewise is secured at opposite ends to both the retainer and base housing components. The inner sleeve in Warmuth thus acts as an air spring itself when inflated to a higher pressure than the outer airspring because it is attached to and able to push on both end components. The Warmuth patent is therefore two concentric air springs, acting in parallel. The inner spring even requires its own piston component (base housing) for the spring rolled lobe to roll upon, as the spring deflects in the suspension. See Warmuth drawing Fig. 10.

The present invention, to the contrary, teaches an inner bladder that is not attached to both end components and cannot, therefore, act as a spring pushing against the component to which it is disattached. The specification and claims as amended specifically state the inner bladder is not tall enough when inflated to contact both ends of the air spring and therefore does not directly act as a spring suspension. The inner bladder is an inflatable inner device to occupy volume and not a spring as Warmuth teaches. It does not require any piston component or other base features to handle a spring rolling lobe that would form during suspension deflections. Warmuth therefore teaches a structure that is distinguishable both structurally and functionally from the claimed invention and cannot provide a proper basis for rejection of the claims.

As Warmuth II fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claims 1-18, as amended, and newly submitted claims 19-20, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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